(d) The Government have not so far made a formal request to the U N, but have made it clear to the U N that they do not have any role to play in Jammu and Kashmir

(e) Government has not come across any instances of the U N. Observers having contacts with terrorists in Jammu & Kashmir.

Minor irrigation programmes

694 SHRI J S RAJU. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether there is any programme to bring area under minor irrigation to cover dry land and rainfed areas with the Central Government financial support;

(b) whether District-wise, Block/Pokets concentrated with Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes have been identified under this minor irrigation programme with earmarking of funds for the benefits of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes; if so, details thereof, and

(c) whether Government are aware of potential area for minor irrigation tanks in the rainfed|dryland area in Perambular and Ariyalur taluks of Trichurapalli districts of Tamil Nadu, if so, the proramme of construction of minor irriation tanks in these two taluks concentrated with Scheduled Castes|Scheduled Tribes through Central Financial support?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) Yes, Sir, under the Integrated Tribal Development programme.

(b) District-wise pockets concentrated with Scheduled Tribes have been identified under the minor irrigation programme for the benefit of Scheduled Tribes. About 103 schemes of construction of check dams at an estimated cost of about Rs. 375 lakhs to creat a potential of about 1445 ha. have been programmed for VIII Five Year Plan under Integrated Tribal Development Programme (ITDP) There is no such proramme for the benefit of Scheduled Castes under this scheme

(c) There is no programme to construct Minor irrigation tanks for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes only in Perambular and Ariyalur Taluks of Trichurapalli district of Tamil Nadu

Releasing toxic substances in environment by Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal

695 SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a)whether some reports have appeared that Union Carbide Plant at Bhopal has been releasing toxic substances in environment for a long time,

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether leakage of same substances in 1984 led to death of more than 3000 people in Bhopal,

(d) whether Government propose to take some action urgently in the matter to avert chances of same incidents which occured in 1984; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) Reports have appeared in a section of the press that toxic substances in substantial quantities are still present in the environment around the Union Carbide Plant in Bhopal Reports are based on a paper published by the US-based National Toxic Compaign Fund, after laboratory analysis of samples from the former Union Carbide Plant site *According to the report*, Dichlorobenzene, an insecticide and chemical intermediate that can damage the liver, kidneys and respiratory and nervour systems besides causing irritation, weight loss and sometimes even death, was found in the community drinking water tanks. The pre-